

Does the "Waiting at the Church" Epidemic Mean that Love is Going Bankrupt?

Geraldine Graham, California Beauty, Whose Engagement to Whitney Warren, Jr., Was Mysteriously Terminated.

Mary Millicent Rogers, Whose Engagement to James Thompson Was Called Off by Mutual Consent.

Never Before Have Broken Engagements from "Nervous Prostration" Become as Common as Divorces, and Society and Science Seek to Discover Whether New Conditions Have Made Young Folk Too Advanced for the "Old-Fashioned" Betrothal and Marriage.



Mary Landon Baker of Chicago and Her Fiance, Allister McCormick, Who Actually Kept Guests Waiting at the Church. Report Now Says They'll Marry—in London!

"Mr. and Mrs. Noah C. Rogers regret that owing to the illness of Mr. Paul B. Tubby they have postponed the marriage of their daughter, Miss Grace B. Rogers, and have recalled invitations for Saturday, February 18."

That is the wording of a recent announcement. Current announcement from the home of Mr. Tubby said that he was "suffering from nervous breakdown," and that the illness "was not serious." The perfunctory addition was made to the record that "no future date had been set for the ceremony."

That is but a sample. A more notable instance came in the case of Miss Mary Millicent Rogers, daughter of Col. and Mrs. Henry H. Rogers, and favorite granddaughter of the late H. H. Rogers of Standard Oil fame. The grandfather cherished the girl beyond words and left a trust fund said to be worth \$20,000,000 to insure her welfare. The fund was left subject to the release of her own father, however, and she was not the mistress of her own destiny.

If she had been, maybe her engagement to James Thompson, a young New Yorker, would never have been broken. When Miss Mary came home with the announcement that she had accepted young Thompson, the idea did not make any particular hit with her family, and particularly with Mrs. Rogers.

Match Off by "Mutual Consent"

At first the mother seemed to fall in with the plan and insisted upon taking her daughter over to Paris to buy out the shops where they kept pretty things for pretty brides.

And so they went up and down the rue de la Paix. Then mother planned a trip to Egypt, and filled the hours of the daughter with so many pleasures that she had no trouble in persuading her that there was much to be seen and enjoyed outside of Long Island.

The result was the announcement that the match was off "by mutual consent."

Equally striking was the cancellation of the engagement of Whitney Warren, Jr., to Geraldine Graham. Young Warren belongs to an old New York family, as well known in France as it is in America. The father, an architect of great wealth, has been decorated by the Belgian government for his activities during the war. Among the social lights who make Paris their Mecca he is always prominent.

Miss Graham inherited great beauty. Her mother is Mrs. William Miller Graham. She was reared in a small Kentucky town and went to Philadelphia when a mere girl, where she met Graham, then a poor man with a dream. The

dream was of oil. He moved to the far West and there the dream came true. With it came millions. The success of the dreamer brought along social prominence for his wife. She went abroad where the then Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII., pronounced her "the most beautiful American" of his time.

Mystery Never Solved

The present Prince of Wales, without knowing of the selection made by his grandfather, singled out Geraldine Graham when he visited California as a dancing partner, and insisted that she was "the most beautiful woman" in all America.

Young Warren was engaged to marry the beauty. Society expected that the wedding would take place on scheduled time. But something happened and the engagement was called off.

Society never discovered why the engagement was broken.

Consider, also, the case of young Allister McCormick, who belongs to the Chicago family whose ramifications have had so much place in the current news. He is young, rich and considered a desirable person. One fine afternoon in Chicago, his father and mother, to say nothing of the relatives and friends who had been invited, gathered in a church waiting for his marriage to Miss Mary Landon Baker.

In an ante-room the young man waited with his best man. The minister was on hand to tie the knot. License and ring were in their proper places. As the time drew near for the ceremony the young man and his best man began glancing nervously at their respective watches. The minutes ticked away rapidly. No sign of the bride.

An hour went by, and then the guests were informed that she was ill of nervous prostration and would not arrive. The wedding was postponed "indefinitely." Shortly thereafter, the young man went to New York and took passage for England. Since his sailing it has been announced that the marriage will take place in London, whither Miss Baker will soon go.

A much more pronounced case of nervous prostration came in the instance of John P. Cudahy, son of one of the most prominent of the early packers and bankers of the City by the Lake. Invitations had been sent to notables all over the country to his wedding at Los Angeles, Cal., to Miss Louise Chenier Francis. She is related to many of the elite of New England, and is a leader of her set at St. Louis.

The Eastern guests had already taken passage for the long journey out to the coast. The bride-to-be and her mother journeyed from St. Louis to Los Angeles and then went to Santa Monica,



Whitney Warren, Jr., Who Is No Longer Engaged to Geraldine Graham.

where the wedding was due to take place. When the day for the ceremony came the prospective husband was nowhere to be found.

They searched for him in every possible place without success. Messengers and telegrams were dispatched. They got no result. The young

James Thompson, Society Man, Whose Engagement Was Broken After His Fiancee Went to Europe.

woman and her mother quietly packed the trousseau and went their way.

Days later friends reported that they had located Cudahy in a sanitarium where he had been operated on for appendicitis. But there was a report of an interview in which the question of finances was discussed between the father of Miss Francis and the prospective bridegroom.

And Anna Fitzgib, American beauty and opera singer, furnishes another recent instance of broken engagement epidemic. She had been engaged for years to Andres de Segura, formerly of the Metropolitan Opera Company. Friends were counting much on the event when the prospective bride naively announced that she wasn't going to get married after all. She hinted that differences of temperaments due to nationalities had something to do with it.

A hundred other instances have been chronicled in which young folk of this day and generation have found the pathway to the altar blocked, and it is becoming almost as great a question concerning the difficulty of staying engaged as that of staying married.

Science and society are both seeking the reason.

Up to this time they have been content, apparently, to permit Nervous Prostration to take the lion's share of the blame, and, with the full facts, so far as the public knows them, in hand, the friend of the young must needs caution engaged couples—

Have a care as to your nerves!

St. Louis Society Was Shocked When Louise Chenier Francis, Packed Up Her Trousseau and Didn't Marry John P. Cudahy, in Los Angeles.

By Betty Van Benthuyzen

THERE is an awful lot of nervous prostrations in society nowadays, girls.

Honest, it is getting to be a problem! Almost every day one picks up the current mail and finds therein a card saying that "Mr. and Mrs. Upperton regret to announce" that the wedding of their daughter, or son, is not going to take place on scheduled time.

Reason: Nervous prostration! It used to be the case that "Waiting at the Church" was only the topic of an imaginative song. Now it is a reality.

Whereas one used to have to wait until they had been married at least a few years before the tidings of a rift arrived, nowadays the break has been advanced to the engagement period and broken engagements, or deferred marriages, have become almost as common as divorces.

What is wrong with the boys and girls of the new order?

Students of the race say that nothing is wrong; that they are merely getting right. The new freedom of women, the privilege of sharing sports with sweethearts and brothers, the mutual privilege of the cigarette age, and the fact that young folk know so much more about the personal habits and characters of one another are all charged with the flood of interrupted weddings.

Once upon a time a young woman was told that Jack was all right, and so far as she knew, he was all right. But now she goes to the same riding school, the same golf course and the same country club, and she gets a line on him from personal observation and conversation with their own sets that was not possible in the old, restricted days. And, by the same token, he knows about her in a way that never came over the spirit of the dreams of his father in his courting days.